<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action
dated October 4, 2005. Claims 1 to 6, 11 to 23, 29 and 30 are pending in the application,
of which Claims 1, 11, 17, 23, 29 and 30 are independent. Reconsideration and further
examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 22 was objected to for various informalities. These informalities
have been addressed by the foregoing amendment to the claim. Accordingly, Applicant
respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24 and 26 were rejected
under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,933,676 (Ohno) in view of U.S. Patent
No. 6,519,053 (Motamed). Claims 3, 13, 19 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.
§ 103(a) over Ohno in view of Motamed and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,225
(Okano). Claims 5, 15, 21 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ohno in
view of Motamed and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,048,117 (Banton). Claims 6,
10, 16, 22 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ohno in view of Motamed
and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,260 (Shimakawa). Reconsideration and
withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to controlling image forming apparatuses
during calibration. Conventionally, if a print job is given to an image forming apparatus at
the same time as calibration a calibration process is to be executed, the print job may be
actually given to the image forming apparatus if the apparatus is ready to accept a job. In
this case, it is likely that the calibration will not be executed properly as it may be
interrupted or otherwise altered by processing the print job. An image forming system in

- 10 -

accordance with various aspects of the present invention provides a solution to this problem.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a controller which can communicate with a plurality of image forming apparatuses for executing a job and transmit to one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses data for performing calibration of the image forming apparatus. The controller includes: a memory unit adapted to store information showing that the calibration of one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed; and a job managing unit adapted to assign to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses a job assigned to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, in the event that the information is stored by the memory unit even if the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is ready to accept a job.

Newly added Claim 29 is directed to a controller which can communicate with a plurality of image forming apparatuses for executing a job and transmit to one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses data for performing calibration of the image forming apparatus. The controller comprises a memory unit adapted to store information showing that the calibration of one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed; and a job managing unit adapted to assign a job to another of the plurality of image forming apparatuses without assigning the job to the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses, in the event that the information is stored by said memory unit even if the one of the plurality of image forming apparatuses is ready to accept a job.

Therefore, a controller in accordance with Claim 1 stores information showing that calibration of one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed, and assigns a job assigned to the one image forming apparatus to another image

- 11 -

PAGE 14/17 * RCVD AT 12/5/2005 6:55:03 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/26 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:714 540 9823 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-00

forming apparatus, in the event that the information is stored even if the one image forming apparatus is ready to accept a job. Similarly, a controller in accordance with Claim 29 stores information showing that calibration of one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed, and assigns a job to another image forming apparatus without assigning the job to the one image forming apparatus, in the event that the information is stored even if the one image forming apparatus is ready to accept a job.

In contrast, Ohno discloses a printer that executes a calibration process based on calibration data received from an external device. When it detects a status change (e.g., temperature change), the printer sets a calibration flag and sends a request for calibration to the external device. Then the printer receives the calibration data from the external device and executes the calibration process based on the received calibration data. When it receives the request for calibration from the printer, the external device generates the calibration data from status information indicative of the status of the printer and sends the calibration data to the printer. However, Ohno fails to disclose storing information showing that calibration of one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed, and assigning a job assigned to one image forming apparatus to another image forming apparatus, in the event that the information is stored even if the one image forming apparatus is ready to accept a job.

Furthermore, Motamed discloses a printer server computer system. If a printer 4020 is busy, a printer server computer 3520 sends a print job given to the printer 4020 to a second capable printer server computer and coupled printer or embedded controller printer. The printer server computer 3520 will assign a print job to the printer 4020 when calibration is to be executed in the printer 4020, unless the printer is busy. Therefore, a printer system in accordance with Motamed may improperly execute a

- 12 -

calibration in the presence of a print job. Thus Motamed teaches away from at least the feature of the present invention wherein a controller stores information showing that calibration of one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed, and assigns a job assigned to the one image forming apparatus to another image forming apparatus, in the event that the information is stored even if the one image forming apparatus is ready to accept a job.

As Ohno and Motamed, neither alone nor in combination, neither disclose nor suggest at least the feature of storing information showing that calibration of one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses is being executed and assigning a job assigned to one image forming apparatus to another image forming apparatus, in the event that the information is stored even if the one image forming apparatus is ready to accept a job, Applicant submits that Claims 1 and 29 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 11 is directed to a method corresponding to the controller of Claim 1. Claims 17 and 23 recite a computer program and a storage medium storing the program, respectively, corresponding to the method of Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended Claims 11, 17 and 23 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 30 is directed to a method corresponding to the controller of Claim 29. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 30 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.
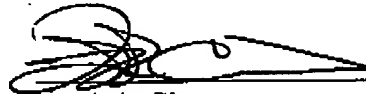
The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully

requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is

believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the

Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA

office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-

listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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- 14 -